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-	13	47/\$.ccls. and (moss same (ethylene or acetate))	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/11/04 12:10
-	12	47/\$.ccls. and (moss same (ethylene or acetate))	USOCR	2002/11/04 12:13
-	16	(moss same (ethylene or acetate))	EPO;JPO	2002/11/04 13:23
-	35	(moss same (ethylene or acetate))	DERWENT	2002/11/04 12:16
-	62	(47/63).CCLS.	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/11/04 13:29
-	100	(47/64).CCLS.	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/11/04 14:00
-	99	(47/65.7).CCLS.	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/11/04 13:44
-	0	A01G009/02.ipc. and ethylene and vinyl and acetate and (binder or adhesive)	EPO;JPO	2002/11/04 14:03
-	1	A01G009/02.ipc. and vinyl and acetate and (binder or adhesive)	EPO;JPO	2002/11/04 14:04
-	4	(peat or moss) and vinyl and acetate and (binder or adhesive)	EPO;JPO	2002/11/04 14:07

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The Timaru Herald (Timaru)

November 23, 2001, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; NATIONAL; Pg. 10; GARDENING

LENGTH: 610 words

HEADLINE: An array of hanging baskets to complement every garden

BODY:

Hanging baskets, dripping with many types of flowers, make a wonderful sight and are very complementary to your other container plants.

Hanging baskets are a bit more tricky than container plants, as you can have a greater range of types, including wire frame baskets.

They tend to dry out faster than other containers, but have more appeal as you can place flower seedlings through the sides of the wire type baskets.

Hanging baskets have more air movement around them, as they are suspended rather than sitting and this is why they tend to dry out faster.

Plastic baskets will retain moisture longer and often these also have a saucer which retains more water keeping the unit moist longer. But being plastic you cannot plant seedlings in the sides of the pot and unless you get a good cascading effect, you are still likely to see an area of plastic.

Maybe some day some one will produce a plastic hanging basket with holes in the sides.

Some terracotta pots can be wall hung with special hangers for this purpose but as we well know, they are the worst type of container for drying out.

When hung this problem increases and these pots also do not have side pockets for plants.

Actually the positioning of any hanging basket will assist in moisture retention and the main aspect is to try to keep them out of wind and drafts by placing them in a sheltered position.

Also too much direct sun light will also add to evaporation.

The wire basket is the most appealing hanging container, especially if it is lined with sphagnum moss.

You can either buy bags of sphagnum moss and tease this out on the inside of the basket or buy an already formed sphagnum liner.

After placing the sphagnum on the inside of the basket it is then a good idea to place a sheet of plastic over this to aid in moisture retention.

You can still cut holes through the plastic to insert seedlings around the sides of the basket.

The Timaru Herald (Timaru) November 23, 2001, Friday

Another trick is to cut strips of newspaper and place this over the plastic. The newspaper will retain water longer. On larger wire baskets you can also do another trick -- that is placing a smaller plastic pot with saucer in the centre of the wire basket which will be planted up with your centre piece and maybe a few trailing plants as well. You place potting mix around and inside this plastic pot so it is never seen.

At the same time you have a separate area for planting trailing plants though the sides of the basket and around the basket's rim. How's that for a bright idea and you get the best of both worlds. You can also hang baskets at different levels and those about eye level or lower should be planted more with upright plants and some cascading or trailing forms. You can even place suitable ornaments in these baskets to make a scene to complement your plantings.

One really neat new plant that has recently been released is a dwarf Alstroemeria series called 'Princess lilies'. These plants only grow about a foot tall and tend to cascade as the large Alstroemeria flowers weigh down the stems. Flowering most of the season these plants give a great display.

Food for hanging baskets should be the slow release type such as Pot Mate or Break Through (the organic one).

Watering should be minimal when first planted up with young plants and increasing in amount as they grow. Mature plants will require a good soaking once or twice a day in summer.

Trimming back plants after a good flowering will encourage new growth and more flowers.

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CAPTION:

A complete garden can be grown in containers and hanging baskets there are so many container and colour options!

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2001

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited  
Brisbane News (Australia)

September 26, 2001, Wednesday

LENGTH: 669 words

HEADLINE: NATURAL WONDER

BYLINE: Annette McFarlane

BODY:

A new product takes the hard work out of lining hanging baskets

BEFORE coconut fibre, wool liners, recycled rubber and plastic hanging pots, there was sphagnum moss. While sphagnum-lined wire baskets look superb, filling them with the individual moss strands has always been a juggling act. An innovative new product now available in nurseries is about to change all that.

Sphagnum moss is a renewable organic resource. It is harvested by hand, using rakes and pitchforks, from sphagnum peat bogs that occur naturally in many regions that experience high rainfall. The moss grows to form a thick spongy carpet. Harvesting involves collecting the upper layers of the moss, while leaving the base layer to regenerate.

Still widely favoured by European gardeners, sphagnum moss has great water-absorbing qualities and when used to line wire baskets it provides an effective reservoir of moisture that helps to keep potting soil damp. With regular watering, the moss also develops a green patina that gives hanging plants a natural look. Totally sterile, it contains a naturally high zinc content that helps keep roots healthy and disease free.

A new compressed sphagnum moss liner from Hortex Australia has all the attributes and natural beauty of sphagnum moss with the convenience of being ready made. Environmentally friendly, the moss is harvested from conservation-controlled regenerative moss fields on the west coast of New Zealand's south island.

The freshly picked moss is dried, compressed, cut and moulded to shape, resembling a flattened cardboard insert in its dried state. Add water and the moss expands before your eyes into a super-absorbent basket liner. Saturated liners hold up to three litres of water. The moss should be given only an initial light spray to soften, and not be soaked completely until after plant is potted. Hortex also advises to add water storage crystals to the potting mix in any hanging basket to aid water absorption.

Birds are not attracted to the damp sphagnum as they can be to other fibre products used to line baskets, and they do not favour it for nesting material. The product is available from leading nurseries and garden centres.

All hanging baskets hold a relatively small amount of potting mix and rely on daily watering and regular fertilising. Always choose the largest basket possible to give roots plenty of room to grow.

Brisbane News (Australia) September 26, 2001, Wednesday

When it comes to plant selection, a hanging basket filled with common, but reliable plants, is far preferable to ones that feature struggling rarities. For those with culinary pursuits in mind, chives, oregano, thyme, parsley and prostrate forms of rosemary will do well in baskets.

Flowering succulents, such as portulaca and zygocactus, hardy ivy leaf geraniums and drought-tolerant dwarf forms of bougainvillea are worth considering where the conditions are a little tough.

Petunias and bedding begonias provide a long-lasting flower display in sunny sites. For foliage in slightly shaded positions try spider plants (Chlorophytum sp.) or English ivy. Gloxinia 'Jingles' provides the bonus of orange bell-shaped flowers in winter and early spring. In exposed conditions look for survivors such as variegated forms of star jasmine (Trachelospermum sp.) and Cissus

rhombifolia.

jobs to do

> Watch out for aphids on new growth of roses. Use a soap spray, a strong jet of water or pyrethrum spray.

> Plant herbs, flowering annuals and vegetable seedlings before the intense spring sunshine arrives.

> Plant bird-attracting trees and shrubs such as drought-tolerant grevilleas and banksias. In wet spots in the garden, tea trees, lilly pilly species and melaleucas will thrive.

open gardens

TWO gardens in our region will be open to the public this Saturday and Sunday (29 and 30 September) under Australia's Open Garden Scheme. They are the Don garden, at 47 Jean Road, Camira, and Rosedale, at 830 Main Western Road, Mt Tamborine. The gardens will open from 10am to 4.30pm both days, and entry is \$4.50.

LOAD-DATE: September 28, 2001

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The Ottawa Citizen

June 29, 2001 Friday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: WEEKEND LIFE, Pg. F9 Cole's Notes

LENGTH: 926 words

HEADLINE: Burning bush relatively trouble-free

BYLINE: Brenda Cole

SOURCE: Citizen Special

BODY:

Q: I have a burning bush shrub about seven years old and a little over a metre tall. For the last few years, the spring foliage on several branches has opened normally, then wilted and died. I removed several to check for borers, but only found the central core of the branches hollow and dry. Have you any idea what could have caused this problem?

Burton Graveley, Long Sault

A: In general, burning bush, along with all the other euonymus, is relatively trouble-free. It has a few diseases that occasionally attack it and it is rather susceptible to aphids and scales, but compared to plants such as roses, it is pest-proof.

For readers not familiar with this shrub, it is grown mainly for its brilliant red fall colour. Also known as winged euonymus, the bark has corky ridges that stand out from the stems and give winter interest. The flowers are small, greenish and insignificant, but they give rise to small red fruits that open to reveal bright orange seeds inside. These hang on after leaf drop and give colour in the early winter. The species, *Euonymus alatus*, grows up to three metres tall and can form a small tree, but the variety *Compactus* is more commonly grown, only gets half this size, and can make a good hedging plant.

Your plant has been hit by a disease called dieback. This is a fairly rare happening, but as these shrubs gain in popularity, it may become more common. Prune out infected branches and dispose of them. Next spring, spray with benomyl (Benlate) just as the buds start to open and give a second spray four to five days later.

Q: My oak tree looks strange. It leafed out normally, but then the foliage developed light green blisters. Some leaves have only one, others, several and, in some cases, there are blisters on the leaf stalk as well. The blisters are very hard and, when cut open, have a small grub inside. Some are now turning black. Other than this, the tree seems to be growing well and does not look as though it is under stress. Can you tell me what my problem is and if I should be worried?

The Ottawa Citizen June 29, 2001 Friday

Paul Stebbings, Ottawa

A: The blisters you describe are known as oak galls. Oaks are subject to infestation by hundreds of different types of gall makers, mainly wasps, midges, aphids and mites. Most of the oaks we grow were originally native species and so have a big reservoir of insects that feed on them.

These gall insects feed inside the leaf or stem and stimulate the plant cells to produce abnormal growths, each of a characteristic size, shape and colour, such as your pale green blisters. I can remember collecting what we called oak apples when I was a kid. These were small, round, light brown balls that we used as ammunition in our childhood wars. I now know that they were yet another oak gall.

Although they may detract from the appearance of the tree, in general oak galls do not seriously affect its health. Populations of gall makers tend to fluctuate wildly from year to year, but so many insects are involved and so little is known about their life cycles that it is impossible to predict years when they will be particularly numerous. The galls serve as protection for the developing grubs, so using insecticides is not very effective, but they are not really needed because the galls are seldom numerous enough to weaken the tree. They are kept under reasonable control by natural predators. If you have a bad infestation this year, by next year, the predator population should have increased enough to bring the numbers back down.

Note: My thanks to several readers for helping solve the mystery of Wayne Moke's monkey-tail plant. It would seem to be commonly called either rabbit's-foot or hare's-foot, depending on the reference. Suzi Ryan of Carp was even able to give me a botanical name, *Polypodium aureum*. This is native from Florida down into Central and South America and in the West Indies, so plants coming from B.C. came the long way round.

There are several named forms, mostly with fancy fronds that have dissected or much-lobed foliage, and I cannot say for sure which it is that Mr. Moke is growing, and indeed, it may well be a different species of *Polypodium* because several have hairy rhizomes. The description of *P. decumanum* seems to fit his plant very well since it has thick rhizomes that are covered with soft, brown woolly scales that wander over the surface of the potting mix and through the air. Also, the leaves are very simple which matches the drawing he sent me. This is native to Mexico and South America. I think what threw me was that the books describe them as scales, rather than hairs, but what you can make out in the photos sure looks hairy.

My books tell me that rabbit's foot ferns are one of the easiest tropical ferns to grow. They should be planted in a shallow pot or a hanging basket in a mixture of sphagnum moss, humus and sand. The sphagnum moss mentioned is the live sphagnum, available in plastic bags in the larger garden and craft stores, not the decomposed sphagnum peat moss that you buy by the bale. The mix must be well-drained.

This fern needs to be kept evenly moist all the time and will need frequent misting with room-temperature water in winter to keep the humidity high. Grow them in bright light in winter and open shade in summer. They can be increased by dividing the plant in spring.

The Ottawa Citizen June 29, 2001 Friday

Brenda Cole is a graduate of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London, England. Write Brenda Cole, c/o The Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3M4 or email [weekendlife@thecitizen.southam.ca](mailto:weekendlife@thecitizen.southam.ca)

GRAPHIC: Black & White Photo: Trevor Cole ; The burning bush is grown, mainly for its brilliant red fall colour.

TYPE: Column

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 2001



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The Times Union (Albany, NY)

August 6, 2000, Sunday, THREE STAR EDITION

SECTION: AT HOME, Pg. H3

LENGTH: 717 words

HEADLINE: Here's some good dirt on best soil enhancers

BYLINE: NANCY O'DONNELL; Special to the Times Union

BODY:

A few months ago, my neighbor Trish and I were working on her perennial garden. We were making up a material list and I said we would need a few bales of peat to till in.

Trish asked if I meant peat moss or peat humus, and what the difference was. Now there's a topic for you, she added, so I took her up on it. Today we are going to sort through some of the more commonly used soil amendments.

Let's start with the peat moss vs. peat humus question. To explain the difference, we need to look at how peat is formed. Peat is basically composed of decaying sphagnum moss with some sedges and grasses mixed in.

There are more than 300 species of sphagnum moss worldwide. They are small, primitive plants reaching a height of about one foot. They thrive in poorly drained areas called bogs or peatlands.

When the plant dies, it is pushed below the bog's surface by the weight of the remaining, living plants. Because of the waterlogged nature of a bog, normal decomposition is slowed way down. After hundreds, even thousands of years, the decayed sphagnum moss becomes peat.

Layers form as a result of the various degrees of decomposition and each layer provides us with a different organic product. The living layer of the bog (sphagnum moss) is sold as hanging basket/window box liners, a potting medium for orchids and for floral design work. It's very coarse and stringy.

The next layer is what we know as peat moss. It is sold in those fun-to-hoist, compacted bales. Its main purpose is to increase the soil's moisture retention capabilities by improving soil porosity; more pores equal more space for water to fill. It is often tilled directly into new garden soil or added as part of the back fill when planting shrubs and trees. But you must mix it in or it will retain water on the soil surface, forcing the roots to grow up in search of moisture instead of down. It has a pH value around 3.5, so with continual use, test your pH annually, and adjust it if necessary.

Reed/sedge peat is the middle layer. It is a cheaper grade of peat due to its makeup and not used extensively. The bottom layer is where peat humus comes from. It is completely decomposed, very dark in color, contains silt from the bog's floor and is often used in place of bagged topsoil by gardeners.

Some peat facts:

There are more than 1 billion peatland acres worldwide, 274 million acres in Canada, 124 million in the United States.

New peat accumulates at a rate of 50 million metric tons per year and is harvested by dredging or block cutting at a rate of about 800,000 metric tons/year.

The United States imports 99 percent of its annual peat moss usage from Canada, and harvests mainly reed/sedge and sphagnum moss.

On to vermiculite and perlite.

Vermiculite is formed from mica. When heated in furnaces, the water trapped between the mineral's layers converts to steam, popping the layers apart and forming the small gray, spongy, lightweight particles in your houseplant potting mix.

Like peat moss, vermiculite aids in water retention. It is excellent for covering bulbs stored indoors for winter to eliminate mildew and rot. Vermiculite with peat moss is a premier seed starting mix.

Perlite comes from volcanic lava flows. The mined ore is crushed, screened and heated. Its moisture also changes to steam and -- pop -- those little, white round balls you find in that same soil mix are formed. Perlite increases soil aeration and is used in hydroponic growing mediums.

Now let's jump on the 'honey wagon' -- fresh vs. composted manure.

Fresh manure that's been piled, repeatedly turned over, ground up and dried becomes composted.

Composted manure makes awesome mulch, it is easy to spread, and moisture leaches nutrients to the roots below. Many area farms have begun composting and selling manure in bulk, which is a cost-effective way to buy.

Both manures increase organic matter in your soil and provide a source of slow-release fertilizer. One drawback: Fresh manure can burn a plant, so it is best tilled into the garden in the fall. Check your pH and adjust if needed.

Nancy O'Donnell owns Perennial Graphics Nursery and is the NewsChannel 13 garden specialist. Send questions to her at 266 Hansen Road, Schaghticoke, NY 12154 or e-mail [nancy@capital.net](mailto:nancy@capital.net).

NOTES:

Gardener's Notebook

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2000